

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2648
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5201
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PINT
SUBJECT: NEPAL: J.P. NARAYAN ON B.P. KOIRALA AND NON-ALIGNMENT

1. ELDER STATESMAN FOR THE RULING JANATA PARTY
J.P. NARAYAN, ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE
RELEASE OF NEPALI CONGRESS LEADER B.P. K OIRALA AND THE
DEMOCRATIZATION OF NEPAL. THE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED
APRIL 11 BY JANATA PARTY LEADERS KRISHNA KANT AND
RAM DHAN AT A NEWS CONFERENCE ADDRESSED BY B.P.'S
BROTHER, GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA. THE LATTER CLAIMED THAT

BROTHER, GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA. THE LATTER CLAIMED THAT
B.P. HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER A SECRET TRIAL.

GRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, IS SCHEDULED
TO MEET PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND OTHER MINISTERS IN
TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE RESTORATION OF
CIVIL LIBERTIES IN NEPAL. KRISHNA KANT AND RAM DHAN
REPORTEDLY ENDORSED J.P.'S APPEAL AND SAID THAT THE
JANATA PARTY "STOOD FULLY BEHIND THE 17-YEAR-OLD STRUGGLE
FOR THE NEPALESE PEOPLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS" (QUOTE IS
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NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF THEIR STATEMENT).

2. THE FOLLOWING IS J.P.'S STATEMENT AS CARRIED IN THE
DELHI PRESS, APRIL 12:

BEGIN TEXT:

(A) "I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT MR. B.P. KPIRALA, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL, AND HIS FRIENDS WERETAKEN INTO CUSTODY FROM THE AIRPORT AT KATHMANDU ON THEIR RETURN FROM INDIA ON DECEMBER 30, 1976. I HAVE BEEN SILENT MUCH WITH AGONY ALL THROUGH THIS PERIOD, FOR MY COUNTRY ITSELF HAD FALLEN A VICTIM TO AN AUTHORITARIAN RULE. NOW THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED AND WE ARE FREE AGAIN. SO I TAKE THIS EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON THIS VITAL QUESTION.

(B) "LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR AT THE BEGINNING THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY. BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN NEPAL HAS SADDENED MY HEART DEEPLY. THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM FOR THE LAST THREE DECADES AGAINST THE AUTOCRATIC RULE OF THE KING. ANY ONE WHO HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NEPAL KNOWS WELL THAT THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN DENIED EVEN THEIR ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS. HUNDREDS OF POLITICAL WORKERS ARE DETAINED IN PRISON, SOME OF THEM WERE EXECUTED WITHOUT FAIR TRIAL. TO PLEAD FOR RESTORATIONS OF THESE RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL MATTERS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

(C) " I HOLD THE VIEW THAT THE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE HAVE AN INHERENT RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. A STAGE HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE WORLD HISTORY WHEN ALL INSTITUTIONS LIKE MONARCHY OR COLONIAL RULE OR ANY OTHER

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FORM OF TOTALITARIANISM HAVE TO GIVE PLACE TO A RULE WHICH REPRESENTS AND MEETS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE. THIS HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROVED, IF PROOF IS AT ALL REQUIRED, BY THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY WHERE THE PEOPLE HAVE UNFAILINGLY VOTED FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND REJECTED THE AUTHORITARIAN RULE TO WHICH WE HAD FALLEN VICTIM.

(D) "THE COUNTRIES IN THE WEST WERE RECENTLY CRITICISING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA, AFTER EMERGENCY WAS ENFORCED. BUT THEY WELCOMED THE ASSERTION OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL THROUGH ELECTIONS. THIS WAS NEVER CONSTRUED BY INDIA AS AN INTERFERENCE IN OUR AFFAIRS. I FEEL THAT WE SHOULD THINK DE NAVO OVER THE WHOLE QUESTION OF OUR RELATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORING AND OTHER COLONIAL COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. FOR, ON MY PART, I BELIEVE THAT

THE RELATIONSHIP AT THE LEVEL OF THE PEOPLE BETWEEN ONE COUNTRY AND ANOTHER CAN PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR LASTING

AND DURABLE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. TO ME IT SEEMS THAT THE WAY
THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED SO FAR HAS
FAILED TO KINDLE THE FLAME OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

(E) "THE CONCEPT OF NON-ALIGNMENT IS NOT A STATIC ONE.
IT IS RATHER DYNAMIC BOTH IN CONCEPTION AND APPLICATION.
IT IS NOT A NEGATIVE CONCEPT.IT IS ON THE OTHER HAND A
POSITIVE ONE. IT IS NOT MEANT ONLY TO KEEP AWAY FROM
THE MILITARY BLOCKS BUT ALSO TO HELP THE PEOPLE TO FIGHT
FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS.

(F) "I WOULD, THEREFORE, APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT LED
BY THE JANATA PARTY TO GIVE A NEW ORIENTATION TO ITS
FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT A DYNAMIC ONE.I WOULD ALSO
URGE UPON HIS MAJESTY KING BIRENDRA WITH ALL HUMILITY
THAT HE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INITIATE THE PROCESS OF
DEMOCRATISATION IN HIS COUNTRY. BEFORE HE DOES SO, HE
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SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MR. B.P. KOIRALA AND HIS FRIENDS
DETAINED IN PRISON. MR. KOIRALA SYMBOLISES TODAY
THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN HIS COUNTRY, AND HIS RELEASE
WOULD BE A GOOD GESTURE ON THE KING'S PART IN HIS EFFORTS
IN THE DIRECTOR OF RECONCILIATION AND POLITICAL SETTLEMENT."
END TEXT.SCHNEIDER

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